INCIDENCE OF DEMENTIA IN MANITOBA

2012 TO 2048

MANITOBA

BUREAU OF STATISTICS

RIGHT ANSWERS

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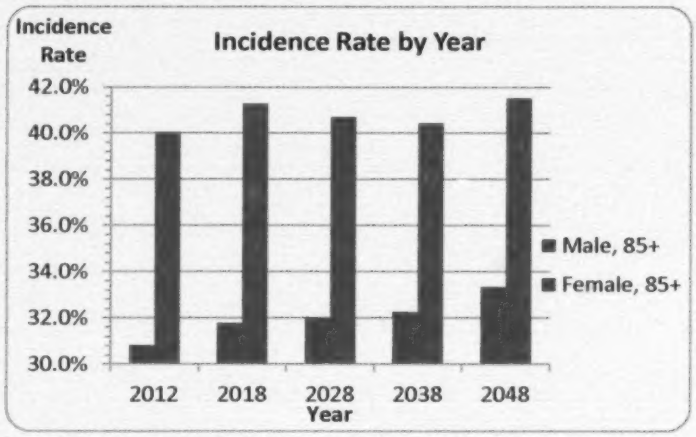
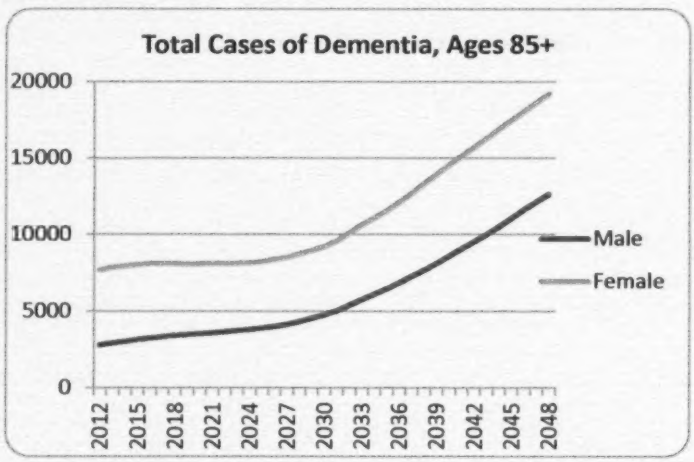
Dementia

Dementia is a devastating medical illness to both the individual and the community. The cost of care for persons suffering from a form of dementia (Alzheimer's disease being the most commonly known) is extraordinarily high, as care is progressively and necessarily more intense as the person suffering becomes less able to care for themselves in every aspect of their life. Beyond financial implications, the familial and emotional stresses from dementia extend in a wide web beyond the immediate individual suffering from the illness.

Dementia will become more prominent in Manitoba in the coming decades. Solely accounting for demographic changes, and assuming the incidence or prevalence rate remains constant in each age group, the simple fact people are living longer means there will be more cases of dementia in future. Visually represented at right, even though the prevalence rate among men aged 85 years and older grows from 30.8% to 33.4% over the period, this is solely due to projections of men living more years beyond the age of 85 years. Rates for females over this period also increase, from 40.0% to 41.5%, albeit in less linear fashion. The estimated cases of dementia coincide with shifts in the distribution of the age group population.

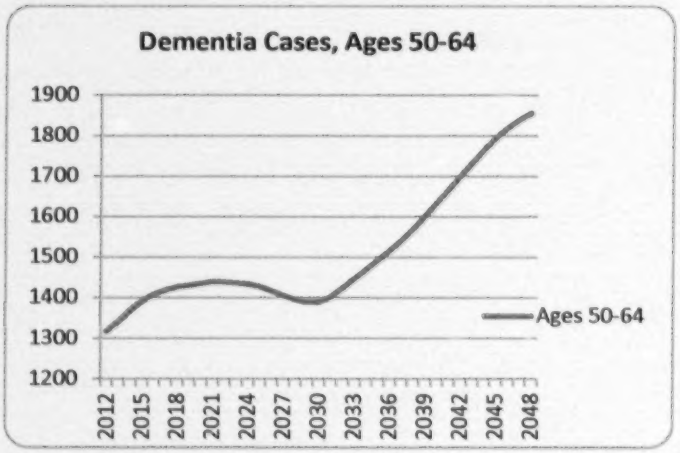


The total number of cases grows substantially over the timeframe estimated for persons over the age of 85. In 2012, there were an estimated 10,498 total number of cases of dementia. This is split between 2,802 cases for males and 7,697 for females. In 2048, it is projected 31,849 Manitobans will be living with dementia. In 2012, for every male over 85 with dementia, there are approximately 2.74 females with dementia. In 2048, the ratio changes to 1.52 females for each male on account of males living longer once they reach the age of 85.



The current incidence rate for persons age 80-84, the age category immediately below the above categories, is 14.3% for males and 17.3% for women. The male population is expected to grow from 10,700 to 26,800, meaning there will be an additional 2,270 males living with dementia in 2048 as compared to 2012 in this age bracket. For women, the population growth is not as dramatic (14,900 to 29,700), but will result in an additional 2,560 females living with dementia.

As demographic shifts and growth continue over the coming decades, the prevalence of dementia in society at large will take a firmer hold. Given that the population of Manitoba is expected to grow almost 50% to 1.87 million by 2048 (from 1.27 million in 2012), there will be more persons living with dementia from earlier years along with the associated care required. The age category from 50-64, often the time of highest income and most productive work, will see growth in dementia cases from approximately 1,300 in 2012 to about 1,850 in 2048. The compound effects of this growth, from the toll on families, the healthcare system, and other support systems, is significant – and beyond the scope of this brief analysis. However, it is incontrovertible that, without advances in treatment and prevention of dementia, extended lifespans, demographic shifts, and population growth will result in heavy demands on all aspects of society in Manitoba.



The total number of cases of dementia in Manitoba will continue to grow. By 2048, it is estimated there will be 52,300 cases of dementia. This is in contrast to the estimated number of 20,800 in 2012. The growth in cases as a result of demographic changes can be seen at right, and does not allow for potential technological, environmental, or other changes which may impact the prevalence rate.